

**WHERE DID THE HAMS GO?**

At one time or another I think we have all heard the question "WHERE ARE THE HAMS?" The answers are varied all over many areas. It is the fault of the internet. Cell phones are the reason that there is fewer people getting into amateur radio.

Some have said there isn't the interest in radio that there used to be. Other things have taken the place of amateur radio. If we would take time to think about it, just what has amateur radio done in the past? It appears to me that I have read many articles about people that became engineers as a result of the hobby. One may say that from the field of ham radio it has produced some very excellence results. Many have given a lot to the general public.

Now it appears that it has come to an end. Why? Does it just appear that way, or has it come to an end? Has it failed to produce the quality of people that it did in the times past? One can spend a lot of time thinking about this, and there may not be an easy answer to what is happening to our hobby.

When we take the time to study some of the "changes" that have and are taking place one may see what is happening. It is not the result of any one thing, but a lot of little things put together. Political correctness may have added some to the problem. There are some that are afraid to say something about some things as one doesn't know who is listening, and it may not be "politically correct." A small part, maybe.

Cost of equipment and antennas may have stopped some from getting into the hobby. Good point, or is it? One must consider what it costs to buy a cell phone, and the fee that must be paid every month to keep it activated. What about the fee that it takes to keep the internet alive and well at one's home? That can be expensive also. I guess I am not convinced that is the reason for the decline of the hobby. While all of that may have an effect somehow, I don't feel that is the problem.

In order for anything to fail, it must first decline from within. The sad but true fact is that ham radio is declining from within itself. Amateurs may place the blame on a good many things for the lack of interest in their hobby, and they all have something to do with it. Let us reflect on the amateur for a little bit. We need to take a good look at ourselves. One may ask them selves just what have I given to the hobby? What have "I" done to help things along?

After I first got my license, all the area's repeaters were full of activity, and now they are almost nonexistent. What happened? Why the decline? The hams are still there, but where did they go? Why are they not on the air?

I know what I am about to say will not win friends, and may make some enemies, but I feel that I have the right to express my opinion the same as anyone else. So here it comes. For anything to fail, and it is failing. The decline starts from within itself. In all walks of life there are always those that want to do it "their" way without regard to what that effect may do to others. They always want to or feel that they have to change this or that.

It appears that in club meetings there is always a power struggle going on somewhere. This wants to be in charge of this or that. This is not right or that is not right. The ones that make the most noise will not be in charge of anything. They just make noise and complain about everything and everyone. That is a good way to start a decline of the hobby. I have heard such things as don't use that repeater or this repeater because . . . That is a good way to advance the hobby. By tearing down someone else is a really good way to advance something, right?

It appears to me that in the eyes of a few, everyone else is a nut or a dummy but them. They must have either

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THANK YOU

Thank you for letting me share with you my vision for the Ohio Section, the ARRL and Ham Radio in general. I truly believe that Ham Radio is the greatest of all



hobbies! And I also believe that participating in a hobby is one of the best things any of us can do for ourselves. If you are really engaged in your hobby, it will be a place where you can meet new friends, learn new skills and try new things. Being a successful Ham Radio operator is a process, not an event. I don't think there's anyone out there who has done it all, so keep your eyes and your minds open – the "magic" of radio and the thrill of being a part of it will keep us smiling for a long time to come.

We are fortunate to have an advocate for our hobby such as the ARRL. While no organization can be "all things to all people," they have done a very good job at representing our interests, providing resources for those who want to learn more, sponsoring operating events and providing a framework to keep both individuals and clubs growing and bringing new members into the fraternity.

We are at a unique point in time and lots of social organizations are struggling for members and funds. Unfortunately, Ham Radio has not done the best job possible in keeping itself at the forefront of public awareness. In recent years we've had some exposure because of our involvement in Emergency Communications, but that is really only a small part of what Ham Radio is all about, and the public doesn't really have a clue about us beyond that. I think the people at the ARRL are aware of this, but it really has to happen at the local level before it can be an effective tool for bringing new hams into the hobby.

So now I'm to the point where I feel obligated to do what I can for the benefit of the Ham Radio community. As Ohio Section Manager one of my primary goals will be to make Ham Radio more visible to the public, creating a positive image of both individual Hams and the Ham Radio hobby. Because of my background in sales and marketing I am uniquely qualified to accomplish this. Proverbs 14:23 says "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." I'm not afraid to do what it takes to get the job done.

If you can help me, it would be most appreciated. Spread the word that I would like to be the new Ohio Section Manager in October 2010. Anyone who wants to know more about me or my ideas for the Ohio Section can go to www.wb8lcd.org.

73, Tom Sly WB8LCD

"It's not always good enough to do your best, sometimes it's necessary to do what is required"

Winston Churchill

ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, March 21, 2010, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 2, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

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a very poor self-image, or a self-inflated ego, that they just have to promote themselves to a position that they don't at the present time hold. The sad but true fact is, they will stop at nothing to get what they want no matter what it costs in the way of advancing the hobby. Are these changes that they feel good for the hobby? Look at the decline and tell if it is or not.

While this is supposed to be a fun thing, where is the fun if when one goes to a meeting and there is a power struggle going on all the time. What about the profanity and other unfit talk that one hears during and after the meeting? Is that a good family thing?

I feel that each one of us needs to take a good look at ourselves, and see if we are building or are tearing down. The only image of amateur radio one may be ME. What am I doing to help it along? I feel very strongly that decline comes from within the hobby, and we must stop the things that add to the decline, if we are going to go anywhere in the future.

Bill KB8MNE

**When did American's first celebrate
St. Paddy's Day?**

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated for the first time in America on March 17, 1737, when the Charitable Irish Society, a Protestant group founded that same year, organized a non-religious celebration honoring St. Paddy. It originated in Ireland as a religious holiday honoring the arrival of St. Patrick in 432 A.D. and his death, on March 17, 464 A.D.

THE EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Who said there's nothing happening with Amateur Radio? Did you look at the impressive list on page 3 of activities local clubs are having? SAARA has quite a few on that list.

The annual dinner is coming up - if you haven't made your reservations, contact Lela McClaren, KB8YPD, and let her know you'll be there. (Her contact info is on the last page.) Ohio Section Manager, Frank Piper K18GW, will be our speaker. I heard he will be bringing SEC Jack Sovik KB8WPZ. It should be an interesting evening.

John Myers KD8MQ, has put up a new site dedicated to Foxhunting - www.neofoxhunting.org/. If you've never tried Foxhunting, check out the page and dive in - it's fun! If you have, this page should be a good resource.

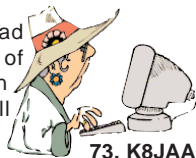
SAARA's Tech class went very well, considering the bad weather we had during the class. We had two students - one passed, the other student plans to take advantage of the next test session in Lisbon. Congratulations to our newest member Carol Gottesman KD8NFD on passing her Tech. She tells us she is already studying for her General.

News from the State Government Liaison (SGL) Nick Pittner, K8NAP, on Ohio PRB-1 - Ohio House Bill 212:
Hello Fellow Ohio Hams,

On Tuesday, January 19th, The Public Service and Homeland Security Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives held a second reading, and listened to proponent testimony for Ohio House Bill 212, better know as Ohio PRB-1.

Section Government Liaison Nick Pitner, K8NAP, has provided us with the follow up reports, published by both the Gongwer and Hannah Reports, which are reports that follow the House Bill legislation at the State Capital.

Go to the Ohio Section web site to read these interesting reports. The Senate version of this Bill, SB 218, had its first reading on February 2, with sponsor testimony. More will follow on these Bills as events happen.



73, K8JAA

OHIO SECTION NOTES FROM INTERIM
AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR

Hi All,

February was just a blur, starting off with the groundhog seeing/not seeing his shadow. I say it that way because one of them did and the other didn't. I guess you have to use your own judgment as to whether we will have six more weeks of winter or not. (Hint.. Hint.. Just look out your window for the answer..!!)

News of Larry and Joanne.. I have spoken to both of them and they are doing just fine. Larry told me that they just need the weather to get better before the contractor will start the de/re-construction project on their house. The home that burnt was an old Post and Beam style house that was built back in the 1830's, and they want to try to save as much of the old lumber from that house as they can. Please continue to keep them in your daily prayers.

Joanne has asked me to keep reminding the new Club Officers, and those who remained in office, to make sure you file the ANNUAL REPORT FORM as soon after your first meeting of the year as possible. There are many times that Joanne and/or the League Headquarters would need to notify your club of some information pertaining to your membership. Without the club updates this is next to impossible. In this day and age of the internet, and the many ARRL forms available online, there's just no excuse not to file this particular form.

I made mention last month that I had noticed reading through a great deal of newsletters that were already making plans for Field Day. Please remember to personally invite your government representatives to this event. This is not only a contest between clubs for points, but it is a very big PR event for the general public as well. This year Field Day will be held on June 26 and 27. A lot of clubs make this weekend a fun, family event with a picnic or two for all. Field Day is designed to be just that, fun, but don't forget it has a serious side too. It's not just the picnics or the points, its main function is to show the general public what we are all about, communications. No ifs, ands or buts about it. We are a service that provides communications when all else fails!

Now onto a similar event, OSPOTA, 'Ohio State Parks on the Air Event, sponsored by Portage County Amateur Radio Service. This year it will be September 11. Contact your local Ohio State Parks Ranger for information on this fun event!

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club's Zero Beat is reporting this month that you can now follow the club on Facebook. They turned it on just a few weeks ago and already have over 20 members logged on and following all the neat stuff that the club is doing. They also have a Fox Hunt coming up very soon.

The TMRA (Toledo Mobile Radio Association) reported in their latest newsletter that the Bennett Venture Academy got to talk with ISS Crew . They made contact via ham radio with Flight Engineer Robert Thrisk. ARISS Mentor and control operator Steve, KB9UPS and members of TMRA set up ham equipment on Saturday at the school. The twin high gain antennas proved to be a challenge to set up on the school's hipped roof. Also set up were the back up antennas and a UHF link beam used to connect to Chris's IRLP node at his home and linked with the discovery reflector on the web via the IRLP 9010 node. Audio was sent into the AMSAT conference node "Echolink" via a Skype connection to Graham Layton G7EVY in the United Kingdom. Attendance on Friday totaled nearly 800 students, staff, parents and media. Media on hand included Toledo's WTOL TV 11, and TV 24. Both stations aired very good spots showing how ham radio can influence students in science, math and technology on the 5 o'clock news Friday night.

Remember to volunteer to help out wherever you can in your Club. Club leaders need volunteers to achieve the ultimate goals set for their club. And don't forget to pay your membership dues. Support your Club. AND, while you're at it, pay your ARRL dues through your club!

**73, Scott, N8SY (Interim ACC -- Ohio
For Acc Joanne Solak, KJ30)**

The above report condensed to fit the space available. - ed

UPCOMING HAM EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 17 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - March 20 Testing EMA Lisbon 1:00 PM registration, 2:00 PM Testing
 - March 20 6:00 PM SAARA Club Dinner
 - March 23 Skywarn Training, Austintown Fitch HS, 4560 Falcon Dr. Austintown - 5:30 registration, 6:00 PM training
 - March 24 Tornado Drill 9:50 AM
 - March 27 Alliance Foxhunt TI:147.510 Start: 200 Glamorgan, Alliance - 2:00PM
 - March 31 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - April 1 SAARA Meeting 7:00PM
 - April 7 Advanced Skywarn Class Columbiana County Career Center 6:30PM
 - April 7 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - April 10 Stark County VHF QSO Contest Sponsored by: The Alliance Amateur Radio Club - details
<http://www.kd8mq.info/files/starkCtyVHFQSOParty.pdf>
 - April 18 Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest – Emidio Center TI: 147.27
 - April 21 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - April 25 McKeesport, PA Hamfest –The Spectrum TI: 146.730
 - May 5 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - May 6 SAARA Meeting 7:00PM
 - May 13-14-15 DAYTON!! Hara Arena TI: 146.94(-) or 146.64(-) - Contact: Dayton Hamvention - PO Box 964 - Dayton, OH 45401-0964 - Phone: 937-276-6930 - Email: info@hamvention.org
 - May 15 Salem Memorial and Patriotic Soc. Spaghetti Dinner 4/7 PM Amvets Salem
 - May 19 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - May 31 Memorial Day Parade 10:00 AM in front of Salem City Hall on Broadway
 - June 2 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - June 3 SAARA Meeting 7:00PM
 - June 6 Butler, PA - Breezeshooters Hamfest, Butler Showgrounds TI: 147.300
 - June 16 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - June 26 - 27 Field Day
 - June 30 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - July 1 SAARA Meeting 7:00PM
 - July 10 Lion Club 5K run Salem Community Center
 - July 25 Randolph, OH Hamfest – Portage Co. Fairgrounds TI: 145.300
 - August 7 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - August 14 Salem Grand Parade 6:00 PM
 - August 21 Cuyahoga Falls Foxhunt 6:30PM
 - August 22 New Kensington, PA Hamfest – Skyview Club Grounds TI: 136.64 (131.8 PL)
 - Sept. 9, 10, 11 Columbiana Street Fair
 - Lisbon club meetings fall on the third Tuesday of the month at the EMA in Lisbon
- Thank you - Dave Sprouse N8GOB. Some info stolen from KD8MQ Editor Alliance ARC Zero Beat, K8UUZ Editor PCARS Radiogram, and N8SEJ editor MVARA Voice Coil

PAINTING LETTERS

The ARRL Letter for March 11, 2010

Hints and Kinks: Painting Letters

This idea comes to us from Dave Price, K4KDP, of Goldsboro, North Carolina.

As I get older, I find it is harder to read some of the smaller print on my radios. The ICOM 706 is a good example. The radio connectors are marked ANT 1, ANT 2, MIC and DC 13.8V, just to name a few. These are marked by either raised letters or letters that are indented into the radio housing. I found that if I paint these letters white, they show up much better on the black metal case. There is a fairly easy way to paint the letters white using cotton swabs with wooded sticks.

Figure 1: This view shows two ICOM 706 radios, one with the painted letters (bottom) and one without (top). Click here for a larger image.

Break off the cotton tip on some of the swabs until you have about six of them with sharp points at the break area. Throw away the cotton tip and use only the wooden stick to paint with. Now spray a small puddle of white paint onto a piece of cardboard. The cardboard will absorb some of the moisture. Just as the paint starts to thicken dip the pointed end of the stick into the paint and then gently tap the paint into the indented area of the radio housing. On raised letters I use the blunt end of the stick, repeating the same process. It is best to use very little paint and repeat the process of dipping into the paint and tapping the paint onto the letters many times (see Figure 1).

You will find you have to replace the stick several times and spray a new puddle of paint when the old puddle gets too thick. You will also need to have some small paper towels and rubbing alcohol close by to quickly clean up any mistakes. I strongly recommend you practice this on some junk metal before attempting this on your expensive radios. I have also used this same trick on unpainted numbers for my Chevy truck 4 wheel drive shift mounted on the truck floor and for my watch bezel to make the unpainted numbers easier to read.

Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint in QST, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

www.qsl.net/saara/

*Where did Samuel F.B. Morse send the first telegraph line? For Bragging Rights, read us that famous sentence
Morse sent the first telegraph message from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, saying "What hath God wrought"*

2010 SAARA Members

Al Avnet AB8AA
Jane Avnet K8JAA
John Fabry KC8SPF
Steve Fabry KC8SOY
Ernie Greenisen KC8QPH
Carol Gottesman KD8NFD
Ginger Grilli KC8ZFK
Don Kemp NN8B

Dale Leach KC8OCG
Mel Lippiatt KA8OEB **
Bill McClaren KB8MNE
Lela McClaren KB8YPD
Tom Miller KB8DUX
Linda Miller KB8SXQ
Regina Neff KD8CGW
Rick Smith KC8SUI

Dave Sprouse N8GOB **
Roger Thawley KC8CTV
Bob Tullis W8HZ **
Dave Volpe KB8NYS
Frank Zamarelli (Honorary Member)
** Life Members

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Vice President	Ginger Grilli	KC8ZFK
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Treasurer	Lela McClaren	KB8YPD

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1 Yr.	Bob Tullis	W8HZ
1 Yr.	Dave Sprouse	N8GOB
2 Yr.	Bill McClaren	KB8MNE

Club Dues Structure

Full Membership	\$15.00/Year
	(Includes immediate family members)
Full Retired	\$12.00/Year
Associate Member	\$10.00/Year
Non-Member Newsletter	\$ 3.00/Year

Join the ARRL through your local ARRL affiliate club. When you do, the club gets \$15.00 for new members. A great way to support our club and have privileges that come with ARRL membership.



SAARA
P.O. Box 696
Salem, OH 44460-0696

Address Service Requested

www.qsl.net/saara

OFFICIAL CLUB ADDRESSES

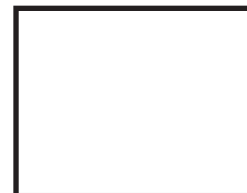
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NEWSLETTER Articles and Submittals

SAARA claims no liability for articles published in this newsletter. The viewpoints in the articles are not considered the viewpoints of **SAARA** membership.

All submittals for **SAARA** Speaks must be received by the Editor (k8jaa@arrl.net) or hand delivered no later than December 10, March 10, June 10 or September 10 enabling the newsletters to be mailed and received prior to the months covered by them.

Advertisements for equipment for sale must also adhere to the same schedule. Newsletters are emailed to current members who have email addresses, and mailed to other subscribers, clubs that send newsletters to **SAARA**, and to selected officials.



**SAARA MEETS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE
 MONTH AT THE SALVATION ARMY
 1249 N. ELLSWORTH AVE., SALEM, 7:00P.M.**

One Nation Under God

Columbiana County NETS

Sunday	9:00 P.M. East Liverpool	146.700	Triangle ARC NET
Monday	8:00 P.M. Columbiana County		Columbiana County Emergency Training NET(ARES)
This NET alternates (lowest to highest) between 146.700, 146.775, 146.805, 147.255 and 147.285 repeaters in Columbiana County.			
	8:30 P.M. Bible Study on the Air	147.285	KB8MNE
Tuesday	7:30 P.M. Salem	147.510 Simplex	Homeland Security Net (last Tuesday of every month)
	9:00 P.M. Salem	K8BTP 147.255	Northern Columbiana County SAARA NET
	9:30 P.M. Salem	KB8MNE 28.310 SSB	SAARA Rag Chew Net
Thursday	8:30 P.M. Alliance	28.400 SSB	Alliance ARC NET
	9:00 P.M. Alliance	145.370	Alliance ARC NET
Saturday	8:00 P.M.	146.805- PL162.2	Skywarn net